Payment of damages from Licencees under UASL

410. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecom, under the Unified Access Service Licencing (UASL) scheme, launched in 2003, permitted basic and cellular service licencees to migrate to UASL regime;

(b) whether delays and non-fulfilment of terms of first and second phase roll out, rendered the licencees liable to pay liquidated damages to DoT, amounting to more than Rs. 400 crores; and

(c) the steps being taken to realize the liquidated damages from the defaulting licencees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (c) Delays and non-fulfilment of terms of first and second phase roll out, rendered the licensees liable to pay Liquidated Damages (LD) to DoT. The amount of revised LD to be recovered from various Licensees is being worked out as per terms and conditions of amendments issued on 10.02.2009.

Quality of mobile services of BSNL

411. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of the mobile signals of BSNL is unsatisfactory and there is frequent breakdown in mobile communication system in the country particularly in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective steps taken/being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Sir, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has laid down the benchmarks for Cellular Mobile Telephone Services through a Regulation on Quality of Service for basic and cellular mobile telephone services, 2005 dated 1-7-2005. TRAI monitors the performance of the service providers through the Quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports (PMRs) and monthly congestion reports submitted by the service providers. As per PMR for the quarter ending September 2008, BSNL Cellular Mobile Telephone services is generally meeting the benchmarks for network related parameters such as Service Access Delay [Benchmark – average of 100 calls =<15 sec], Stand–alone Dedicated Control Channel (SDCCH) Congestion [Benchmark <1.00%], Traffic Channel (TCH) Congestion [Benchmark <2.00%], Call Drop and percentage of connection with good voice quality, with the following exceptions:-

Parameters	Service Area
Service Access Delay (Average of 100 Calls = <15 sec)	North East (16.00 Sec)
SDCCH Congestion <1.00%	Jammu and Kashmir (1.10%)
TCH Congestion <2.00%	Maharashtra (2.53%), Andhra Pradesh (2.89%), Kerala (2.60%) Punjab (2.01%), Madhya Pradesh (2.58%), Jammu and Kashmir (2.50%)

Regarding the breakdown in mobile communication, there is a parameter in the above regulation on accumulated down time of community isolation, the benchmark of which is <24 hrs. BSNL complies with the benchmarks for this parameter in all the service area. BSNL also complies with the benchmarks for all network related parameter in Himachal Pradesh service area.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Allotment of PCO booths

412. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has provided STD, PCO and ISD telephone booths to the poor, widows and handicapped persons as a source of livelihood in the country particularly in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last two years, State-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

Public Call Offices (PCOs) are available on demand subject to technical feasibility. PCOs are provided to eligible applicants including poor, widows and handicapped persons by BSNL/MTNL. In addition commercial conditions are required to be complied.

(b) The data of (PCOs) excluding Village Panchayat Telephones is maintained circle-wise and not State-wise by BSNL/MTNL. The SSA-wise list of number of PCOs allotted by BSNL/MTNL to handicapped persons for the last two years is given in the Statement (*See* below). No security deposit is taken from the handicapped persons for PCOs by BSNL. No separate category of poor and windows is maintained by BSNL/MTNL for allotment of PCOs.